Government have agreed to help the States in meeting the naxalite menace which has created great disturbance in the States on a large scale and what kind of assistance has been provided so far to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Available reports do not indicate that Madhya Pradesh is seriously affected by Left Wing extremism. However, there are certain pockets of Left Wing influence in the districts bordering Andhra Pradesh. The Government, is, however, aware of the increased extremist activities in Andhra Pradesh. Since the maintenance of law and order in the primary concern of the State Government, the concerned State Governments are taking appropriate measures to tackle the situation. The Central Government is sharing information regarding the activities of the extremists with the State Governments on a regular basis. In addition, deployment of paramilitary forces, provision of training facilities for State police personnel, improved wireless communication facilities and better weapons are being provided as per the requirements to the concerned State Governments subject to availability.

Amount received by Madhya Pradesh under wasteland development programme

864. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government had received a sum of Rs. 13 crores from the Union Government under wasteland development programme;

(b) if so, what are the schemes that were undertaken by the State Government on this account and how much was spent out of the amount and how much still remain to be spent on this amount; and

(c) what were the wasteland areas improved under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) During first four years of the 7th Plan, Rs. 12.13 crores were allocated to Madhya Pradesh for afforestation programmes by National Wastelands Development Board, under the two schemes (i) Rural Fuelwood Plantation and (ii) Decentralised Peoples Nurseries. An amount of Rs. 7.86 crores has been spent so far.

(c) So far, 72,733 hectare of afforestation has been done under these two schemes.

Increase in India's Trade Deficit

865. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit during the first four months of the current financial year is at a higher level in comparison to the same period last year,

(b) if so, what is the total icrease in trade deficit and what were the main reasons therefor, and to what extent it is higher; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) According to provisional figures India's trade deficit during the first four months of the current financial year amounted to Rs. 2618.19 crores as compared to Rs. 2113.94 crores during the same period last year